

THE THIRD NEARTIC SPECIES OF NITELA,  
WITH REMARKS ON THE GENERA TENILA  
BRÈTHES AND RHINONITELA WILLIAMS  
(HYMENOPTERA: SPHECIDAE).

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During the past summer of 1936 at Woodhaven, Long Island, Mr. William George Bodenstein discovered a number of small aculeates nesting in the trunk of a dead cherry tree in the yard of his neighbor, Mr. J. C. Linz. Upon examination these were found to be *Stigmus americanus* Packard, *Trypoxylon frigidum* Smith, and a new species of the rather rare genus *Nitela* which is described herewith, bringing the number of Nearctic species of this genus now known to three. Hovering about the nesting holes in the dead cherry tree, Mr. Bodenstein informs me, were a number of the small parasitic Chrysid wasp, *Chrysidea verticalis* Patton.

*Nitela cerasicola* n. sp.<sup>1</sup>

♀. 4 mm. long. Entirely black, except the apices of the mandibles which are dark red, and the tibial spurs which are testaceous. Clothed with a sparse, pale, short pubescence.

*Wings* clear hyaline, veins dark brown; forewing with the submarginal cell subrectangular, twice as long as broad, the recurrent nervure received by the cubitus distinctly before the transverse cubital nervure, the cubitus prolonged beyond the transverse cubital nervure as a short but distinct spur; marginal cell narrowly rounded apically and weakly appendiculate there.

*Head* shining to subopaque, face, clypeus and vertex closely and finely punctate, temples aciculate; clypeus rounded out and with a shining, impunctate subbevelate portion medioapically, laterad of which on each side is a blunt tooth; clypeus and front for the length of the scape with a cristate median longitudinal keel on each side of which there is a rather deep concave scapal basin; antennal insertions about twice as far from each other as from the nearest eye margin, pedicel as long as the first segment of flagellum, second and third flagellar articles subequal in length to the first and individually longer than any of the succeeding flagellar segments; eyes convergent toward the vertex and very finely and obscurely puberulent; mandibles entire beneath, simple apically; malar

<sup>1</sup> From *cerasus*, cherry tree, and *colo*, to inhabit, in allusion to its nesting habits.

space evident, about one-third the length of the scape; ocellular line about one-third the postocellar line.

*Thorax* shining, with puncturation similar to that of face; pronotum rounded anteriorly, not transversely carinate, dorsal surface with a deep transverse, minutely foveolate sulcus interrupted medially by a raised V-shaped backward production of the anterior dorsal surface; mesonotum with the lateral edges margined with a row of small foveolae, but the anterior lateral corners without trigonal foveolate areas as in *N. virginiensis*, the posterior margin with a distinct row of foveolae; mesopleura with the episternal suture, the sternauli, and an impressed furrow just before and parallel to the meso-metapleural suture foveolate, the prepectus and mesosternum subopaque, and finely punctate, the mesopleura behind the episternal suture and above the sternauli shining, polished and impunctate, discally with a deep median pit; metapleura ankylosed with the propodeum and shining, highly polished and impunctate; propodeum shining, the dorsal face traversed by well separated, parallel longitudinal carinulae connected irregularly with one another by transverse carinulae; lateral faces of propodeum with irregular parallel longitudinal carinulae; posterior face minutely irregularly clathrately rugulose, medially with a narrow, deep elongate subobcuneate fovea, laterally at the junction with the lateral faces, carinate.

*Abdomen* shining, highly polished, and with a very fine scattered puncturation; pygidial area wanting.

♂. Unknown.

*Holotype*.—♀, 8720 Ninety-sixth Street, Woodhaven, Long Island, New York, August 29, 1936 (W. G. Bodenstern; nesting in trunk of dead cherry tree).

This species seems to be somewhat intermediate between *Nitela virginiensis* Rohwer and *N. floridana* Pate, agreeing with the latter by possessing an elongate subrectangular submarginal cell and in the finely puberulent eyes but differing from it by the transversely sulcate pronotum, the sculpturing of the head and thorax, and the color of the legs. On the other hand, the general habitus of *N. cerasicola* is quite similar to *N. virginiensis* but the pronotum is not transversely carinate as in the species, nor does the mesonotum have the anterior lateral corners provided with a trigonal foveolate area and the hind margin medially with a radiating fan of carinulae that are so characteristic of *N. virginiensis*.

Until further material is forthcoming, the following key will serve to distinguish the known Nearctic species of *Nitela*. As yet,

no males are known, but they should be separable upon the characters given below.

1. Pronotum transversely carinate anteriorly; mesonotum at each anterior lateral corner with a trigonal foveolate area, posterior margin medially with a fan of radiating carinulae; eyes bare; submarginal cell rhomboidal . . . . . *virginiensis* Rohwer.

Pronotum rounded anteriorly, not transversely carinate; mesonotum not so constructed; eyes microscopically puberulent; submarginal cell rectangular . . . . . 2

2. Pronotum flat dorsally, not transversely sulcate; mesonotum with posterior margin simple, not foveolate; head and thorax microscopically shagreened; clypeus and front not keeled; cubitus of fore wing without a stump distally; legs fulvous; southern species. . . . . *floridana* Pate.

Pronotum with a transverse, minutely foveolate sulcus dorsally; mesonotum with posterior margin foveolate; head and thorax finely punctate; clypeus and front with a median longitudinal cristate keel; cubitus of fore wing with a stump distally; legs black; northern species . . . . .

*cerasicola* n. sp.

In 1928 Williams established the genus *Rhinonitela*<sup>2</sup> for the reception of two species from the Philippines and British Guiana, differentiating it from *Nitela* by the presence of a median longitudinal cristate keel on the clypeus and front, by the mandibles being simple and edentate apically, and by the eyes being hairy. His diagnosis, however, agrees very well with Ducke's description of *Nitela amazonica*<sup>3</sup> upon which Brèthes in 1913 based his genus *Tenila*,<sup>4</sup> and although I have seen no authentic material of either of these, I believe that the two groups are congeneric in all probability. *Nitela cerasicola* and, in some measure, *N. floridana* apparently exhibit the characteristics of this genus, and if they should eventually prove to be congeneric with *Tenila*, I do not think that this group may be accorded the rank of a discrete genus—indeed, it is doubtful if *Tenila* may even be considered a good subgenus. However, until I have had an opportunity to examine material of *Tenila* and *Rhinonitela*, I am unable to settle this question satisfactorily. For the present, consequently, I prefer to allocate *cerasicola* and *floridana* to *Nitela*.

<sup>2</sup> Exp. Sta., Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Assn., Ent. Ser., Bull. 19, p. 97 (1928).

<sup>3</sup> Verh. Zool.-Bot. Ges., Wien, LIII, p. 269 (1903).

<sup>4</sup> An. Mus. Nac. Hist. Nat. Buenos Aires, XXIV, p. 153 (1913).